Building Name Address	Use (as per FSA Annexed Table 1)	Date and Time of Incident	Structure and Stories Area	Extent of Damage (Damaged Area/ Total Area)	No. of Casualties
Sennari Hostel 1-8-20 Oginochaya, Nishinari-ku, Osaka City, OSAKA	Hostel (5) a	March 10, 1975 Breakout at 06:16 (approx) Detected at 06:20 Notified by fire emergency dedicated telephone line Extinguished by 12:58	Semi-fire resistive, 7 stories above ground and 0 below Building area 251 m^2 Total floor area 1,501 m^2	**[All]**, Half, Partial. Small 1,501 m^2 (100%)	Fatalities 4 Injured 61 ( )

I. Summary of Fire Incident

(1) Summary

This hostel fire occurred early in the morning in Japan's largest slum (Airinchiku). The fire started from a guest room located next to the main entrance on the 1st floor, and because of this fire location, approximately 180 guests had to find an alternative exit. In the mass confusion that follows, some guests jumped from the roof or ran up to the rooftop. This fire resulted in 4 fatalities and 61 injuries and exposed the vulnerabilities unique to a hostel in the aspects of fire prevention and hotel security in a dangerous neighborhood.

(2) Conditions per Floor

Floor	Total area	Damaged area	Use (Purpose)	No. of persons	No. of fatalities	Fire escape equipment	Firefighting equipment
	m^2	m^2				2 sets of inside spiral stairs (1st to roof, 1st to 6th floors) 2 sets of fixed ladders (1st to 6th floors)	Fire extinguishers 1 indoor fire hydrant per floor Automatic fire detection system Emergency alarm system (PA system) Guiding lights 1 set of water pipe connections (3rd to 7th floors)
7	64.0	64.0	*Futon* mattress storage		1 (Jumped to death from roof)		
6	239.5	239.5	Guest rooms	16	1		
5	239.5	239.5	Guest rooms	19	1		
4	239.5	239.5	Guest rooms	40			
3	239.5	239.5	Guest rooms	42			
2	239.5	239.5	Guest rooms	40	1		
(1)	239.0	239.5	Front desk, Guest rooms	28			
Total	1,501.0	1,501.0		185	4		

(3) Origin of Fire

(Floor, Room, Part, Combustibles, Habitable/Non-habitable rooms, Present/Absent)

From a guest room next to the main entrance on the 1st floor

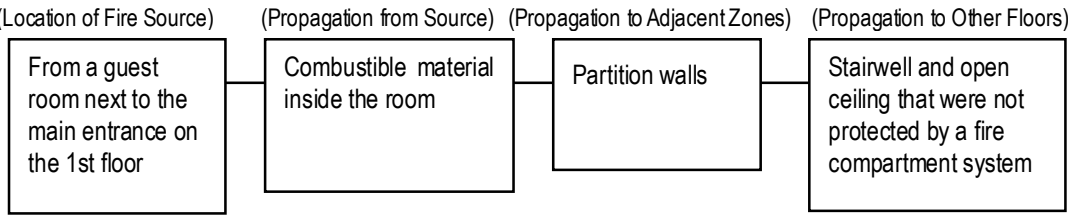
The average size of a guest room was 2 m^2 (just enough to sleep), which was partitioned by plywood and a door. This small room contained combustible material such as *futon* mattresses, and the windows of all rooms were covered by wire mesh to prevent break-ins, theft, or breakage from thrown stones.

(4) Cause of Fire

Unknown

The cause of the fire is believed to be either a burning cigarette, an unattended heater, or arson; however, there is no proof to determine the exact cause.

(5) Fire Propagation Path



The fire room on the 1st floor was close to the main entrance and stairwell, and therefore the fire spread quickly to the upper floors through the stairwell and open ceiling area on even-numbered floors, which were not protected by fire compartment systems. The plywood partition walls also facilitated the spread of fire.

- Main Reasons for Propagation of the Fire
  - The fire room was next to the stairwell without a fire compartment, and therefore the fire spread rapidly to the upper floors.
  - The open ceilings were not protected either, and the plywood partitioned walls facilitated the propagation of fire.
- Smoke Propagation Path
  - Through the stairwell that had no smoke/fire compartment
  - Through the open ceilings in the hallway

II. Summary of the Building

(1) Built

Construction, Completion, and Major Renovations

Fire Prevention Management

(2) Vertical Shafts

Stairwells	[X]	Duct spaces	[ ]
Elevators	[	Pipe shafts	[ ]
Escalators	[ ]	Other ( )	[X]

There was 1 through stairs on each side (east and west) of the floor, but these stairs had no fire compartments.

(3) Fire Prevention

The owner and fire-prevention manager were not much concerned about fire prevention and undertook no fire drills and no training to employees.

(4) Fire Compartment

This building consisted of 3 stories, but each story was divided into 2 floors to create 6 floors in total. So, the odd-numbered floors were made of steel deck plate, whereas the even-numbered floors were made of plywood and steel frame. Because of this configuration, each hallway had some 7 to 10 sections of open ceilings (size of 0.5 m x l.3 m approx.) throughout the building, and none of them were protected by fire compartment systems.

(5) Firefighting Equipment

When the fire broke out, no-one heard the alarm of the automatic fire detection system because the audio alarm was switched to "OFF".

III. Actions Taken after the Fire was Detected

(1) First Detected

- **Detected by** (A guest on the 1st floor)
- **How and why** (Drifting smoke under the door)
- **Action taken** (Alerted other by shouting "Fire!")

When a guest was walking down the hallway, he saw unusual smoke emerging form a room next to the main entrance. He opened the door of the room because he thought it was strange and saw flames and smoke inside it. Instinctively he shouted "Fire! Fire!"

(2) Emergency Call

Emergency Call Yes [ ] ( ) Time elapsed since the discovery (4) minutes

No [X]

Someone called from Restaurant M across the street from the Sennari Hostel, saying "Sennari across the street is on fire".

(3) Initial Firefighting Activities

Initiated	Successful [ ] Failed [ ] ° Extinguished timing [ ] ° Firefighting difficulties [ ] ° Firefighting method [ ]	**(Reasons or Conditions)** No immediate attempts to extinguish the fire. (No sign of using any existing firefighting equipment.)
Not Initiated	° Extinguished timing [ ] ° Firefighting difficulties [ ] ° Firefighting method [ ] ° Other [ ]	

(4) Summary of Firefighting Activities

(Obstacles or Difficulties in Fire Control)

- When firefighters arrived, flames were emerging from the windows of the 3rd and 4th floors, and black smoke was pouring out everywhere. Approximately 20 to 30 persons were calling for help from the rooftop.
- Firefighting activities focused on a protective water-charging operation to rescue the evacuees.
- The firefighters had difficulty entering the building because all the windows were covered by metallic wire for security reasons.
- The firefighting operation was challenging because of the many difficulties they encountered, such as the wide open ceilings that were designed for ventilation, shelving unit-like small rooms that were divided by plywood, and the presence of many combustibles such as *futon* mattresses.

(5) Evacuation

Means of Escape (No. of Persons)	Obstacles to Evacuation
° Stairs [X] ( ) ° Elevators/Escalators [ ] ( ) ° Escape equipment [ ] ( ) ° Directly to ground from windows or openings [X] ( ) ° Rescued [X] (33) ° Other ( ) [ ] ( )	° No windows [ ] ° Barred openings [ ] ° Locked emergency doors (Exits) [ ] ° Alarm system [ ] (Poorly controlled, Malfunctioned, Not installed) ° Power outage [ ] ° Other [ ]

In conditions of the intense fire and smoke ascending the stairwells and along the open ceilings, most of the guests escaped via the stairs next to the bathroom on the east side, by using fixed ladders, and via the main entrance. However, in the disturbed beehive-like conditions, it was impossible for every single guest to escape via the narrow stairs in a short period. Therefore, those who were far from the stairs or slow in noticing the fire evacuated by unusual means, such as jumping from the windows to the ground or to an adjacent building, climbing down utility structures, or going up to the roof. A total of 33 persons were rescued by firefighters, including 25 who were rescued from the rooftop by ladder trucks.

(6) Causalities

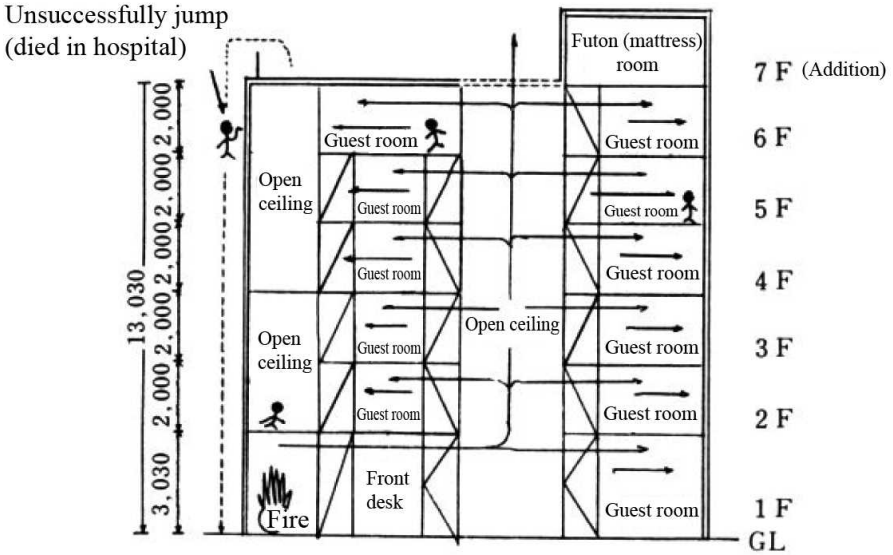
	Obstacles to Evacuation
Healthy individuals 3 (Drunk persons person) Individuals in need of assistance 1 Infants Elderly 1 Handicapped Patients/ill persons	° No windows [ ] ° Barred openings [ ] ° Locked emergency doors (Exits) [ ] ° Alarm system [ ] (Poorly controlled, Malfunctioned, Not installed) ° Power outage [ ] ° Other [ ]

° In this fire, 4 persons lost the chance to evacuate. Of these, 3 were burned to death: 1 (age 85) in a 2nd-floor guest room, 1 (age 25) in a 6th-floor guest room, and 1 (age unknown) near the window of the 5th-floor hallway. They were probably trapped by smoke.

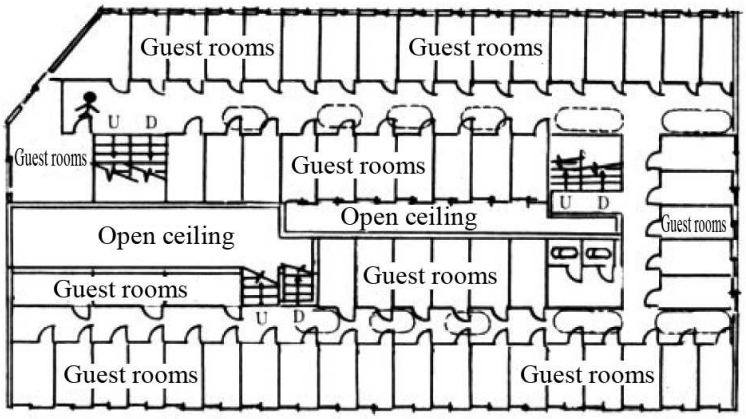
° The 4th person (age 52) escaped to the rooftop at first and tried to jump onto a utility pole to climb down, but on this attempt, he fell to the ground and died later in hospital.

IV. Issues and Lessons Learned

1. It is the hostel owners' responsibility to ensure the safety of guests. All hotel owners need to know that filing paper work (e.g. by a fire prevention manager) does not satisfy the responsibilities that they have to the guests. All people involved including the owner need to realize that they are accountable and respect their duties in fire prevention.
2. The faulty fire compartments around the stairwell and the floors caused the fire and smoke to spread quickly and resulted in many casualties. Therefore, without delay, fire compartment systems need to be inspected and any faulty portions corrected.
3. All of the windows were covered by mesh wire and the entrance was locked. Although such measures may be necessary for security reasons (break-in and theft), such an object or barrier could affect evacuation and firefighting operations, and therefore an alternative solution is needed.
4. To be able to secure the safety of guests in the early stage of a fire, building management should proactively be involved in the safety measures and install an emergency exit, adequate fire compartment on the stairwell, an outside set of stairs and an escape bridge to an adjacent building.
5. Building management should provide a fire prevention seminar and training to employees so that the existing firefighting equipment can be used effectively in case of an emergency.

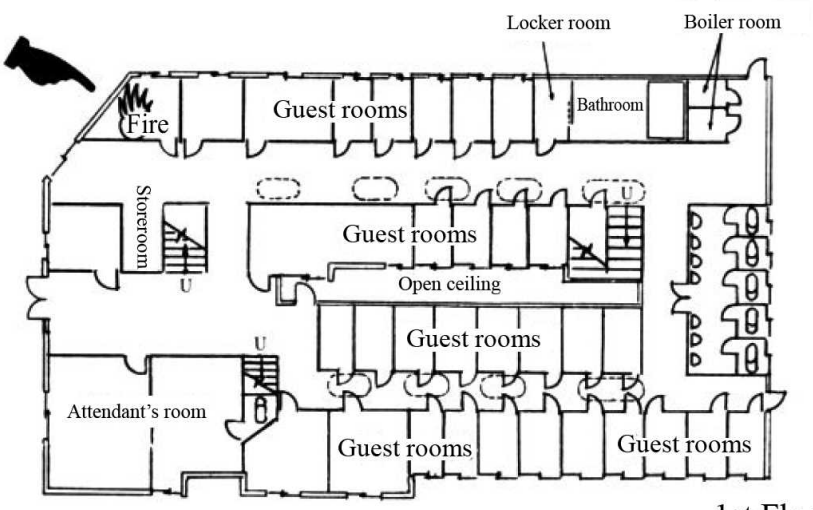


Note: The odd-number floors were made of steel plate (deck plate).
Therefore, each hallway had some open ceilings (approx. size of 0.5 m x 1.3 m),
total of 7 to 10 sections throughout the building and none of them had fire compartments.
(Odd-number floors) The fatality locations are estimate.



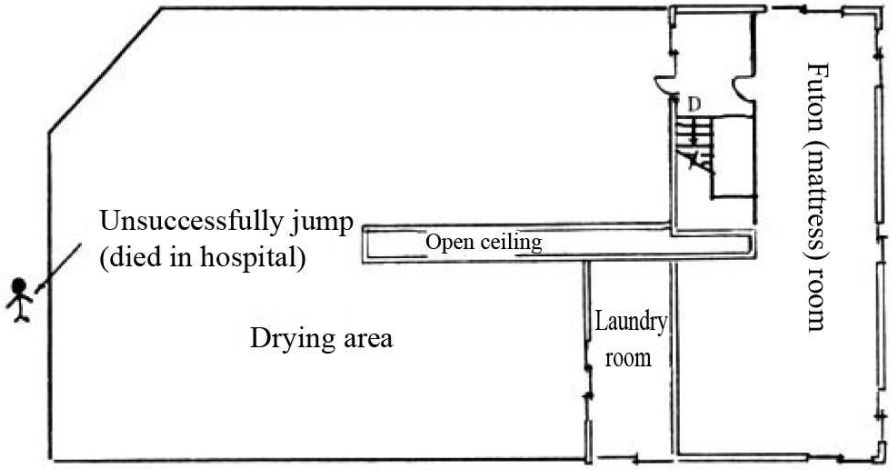
2nd floor

Indicates portions of open ceiling

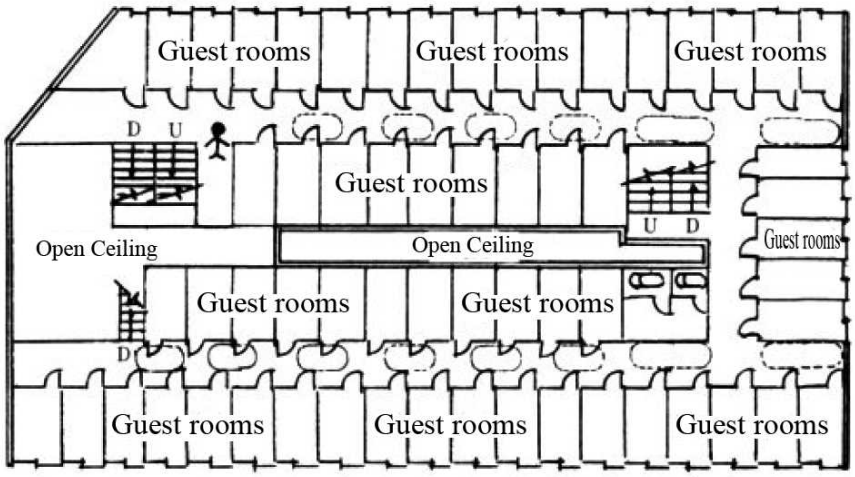


1st Floor

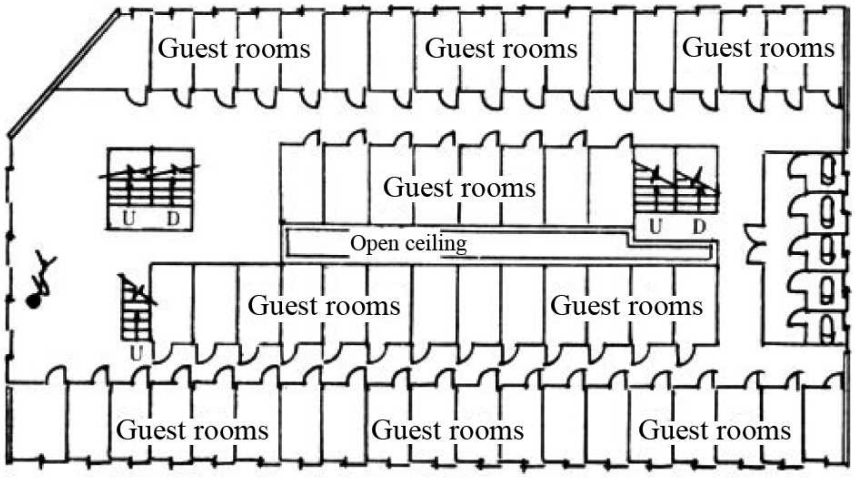
Indicates portion of open ceiling



7th Floor



6th Floor



5th Floor